

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1 and 13 to read, as follows.

1. **(Currently Amended)** A developing apparatus comprising:
 - a developer carrying member for carrying a developer;
 - a developer regulating member, contacted to said developer carrying member, for regulating a thickness of a layer of the developer on said developer carrying member; and
 - a lubricant, provided in a contact portion between said developer carrying member and said developer regulating member ~~before the developer is carried on said developer member in a state of absence of the developer in the contact portion,~~

wherein a charge polarity of said lubricant is opposite to a charge polarity of said developer, and a weight average particle size of said lubricant is not more than 1/3 of a weight average particle size of said developer.
2. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said lubricant comprises spherical particles having an average circularity not less than 0.90.
3. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said lubricant comprises polymer particle.
4. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a weight average particle size (pm) of said lubricant is smaller than an arithmetic average roughness Ra value (μm) of a surface of said developer carrying member.

5. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the charge polarity of said developer is negative, and said lubricant comprises melamine resin material particles.

6. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the charge polarity of said developer is positive, and said lubricant comprises fluorine resin material particles.

7. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said lubricant has a weight average particle size of $0.01\mu\text{m}$ - $1.5\mu\text{m}$.

8. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said lubricant has a weight average particle size of $0.01\mu\text{m}$ - $3\mu\text{m}$.

9. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a coating amount of said lubricant on said developer regulating member is $1.5\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ - $15\text{g}/\text{m}^2$.

10. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a coating amount of said lubricant on said developer regulating member is $0.18\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ - $1.9\text{g}/\text{m}^2$.

11. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said developer contains not less than 90%, by number base cumulative value, of particles having not less

than 3 μm corresponding diameters and having not less than 0.900 circularities, and wherein a weight average particle size X of said developer, and a number base cumulative value Y (%) of the particles having not less than 0.950 circularities, satisfy:

$$Y \geq \exp 5.51 \times X^{-0.645}$$

$$(5.0 < X \leq 12.0).$$

12. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said developing apparatus is provided in a cartridge detachably mountable to a main assembly of an image forming apparatus.

13. **(Currently Amended)** A developing apparatus comprising:
a developer carrying member for carrying a developer;
a developer regulating member, contacted to said developer carrying member, for regulating a thickness of a layer of the developer on said developer carrying member; and
a lubricant, provided in a contact portion between said developer carrying member and said developer regulating member ~~before the developer is carried on said developer carrying member~~
in a state of absence of the developer in the contact portion,
wherein a charge polarity of said lubricant is opposite to a charge polarity of said developer, and wherein a weight average particle size (μm) of said lubricant is smaller than an arithmetic average roughness Ra value (μm) of a surface of said developer carrying member.

14. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein said lubricant comprises spherical particles having an average circularity not less than 0.90.

15. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein said lubricant comprises polymer particle.

16. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the charge polarity of said developer is negative, and said lubricant comprises melamine resin material particles.

17. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the charge polarity of said developer is positive, and said lubricant comprises fluorine resin material particles.

18. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein said lubricant has a weight average particle size of $0.01\mu\text{m}$ - $1.5\mu\text{m}$.

19. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein said lubricant has a weight average particle size of $0.01\mu\text{m}$ - $3\mu\text{m}$.

20. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein a coating amount of said lubricant on said developer regulating member is $1.5\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ - $15\text{g}/\text{m}^2$.

21. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein a coating amount of said lubricant on said developer regulating member is $0.18\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ - $1.9\text{g}/\text{m}^2$.

22. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein said developer contains not less than 90%, by number base cumulative value, of particles having not less than 3 μ m corresponding diameters and having not less than 0.900 circularities, and wherein a weight average particle size X of said developer, and a number base cumulative value Y (%) of the particles having not less than 0.950 circularities, satisfy:

$$Y \geq \exp 5.51 \times X^{-0.645}$$

$$(5.0 < X \leq 12.0).$$

23. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein said developing apparatus is provided in a cartridge detachably mountable to a main assembly of an image forming apparatus.